India performed well by winning 50 medals consisting of 22 gold, 17 silver and 11 bronze and retained its fourth position despite limitation of events/disciplines of India's strength. Indian sportspersons have performed creditably in a number of international competitions including the First Afro-Asian Games in Hyderabad and SAF Games in Islamabad in 2004. In Athens Olympics 2004, India won a first ever silver medal in an individual events since independence while some of the sportspersons gave their best performances. In Paralympics Games 2004 at Athens, India won 1 gold medal in athletics and 1 bronze medal in power-lifting.

(c) and (d) The existing National Sports Policy was formulated in 2001. This is being reviewed in the context of the 11th Plan, and the evolving needs and priorities in the sports sector.

Panchayati Raj Yuva Shakti Khel Kood Abhiyan

1171. SHRIMAHENDRAMOHAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

,(a) whether it is fact that a detailed scheme called 'Panchayati Raj Yuva Shakti Khel Kood Abhiyan' has been formulated to tap the sporting talent amongst the rural youth of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) In recognition of the shortage of sports facilities in rural areas and the consequent lack of access to organized sports and games to a large section of children, adolescents and the youth, consideration is being given in the Ministry to the promotion of a Panchayat Yuva Khel Abhiyan in collaboration with various stakeholders including Education Institutions, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Youth Organizations etc. The details of the proposal will be finalized after necessary consultations with the Ministries and organizations concerned, as also the State Governments, thereafter, approval of the competent authority will be sought.